

Multi-District, Mobile HHW Collection & Transport Unit

Sponsor/Contact

Porter County Solid Waste Management District
6 100 Southport Road
Portage, IN 46368
219-763-3797 / Fax 219-762-1653

Summary

A custom-designed semi-trailer equipped to receive and bulk HHW provides rotating weekend service in three adjacent Solid Waste Districts in Northwest Indiana — Lake County, Porter County, and LaPorte County — under an interlocal agreement.

Start date/hours

Anticipated to begin in late 1994. Service will be provided on Saturdays and Sundays, 6 to 8 hours each day.

Cost

There are four main kinds of costs associated with this program:

- Site development where the mobile unit will be parked in each of the three counties.
- The mobile unit, a refurbished semi-trailer formerly used as a moving van
- Labor, including the program director and technical field staff
- Transportation and disposal charges paid to outside contractors.

The corresponding costs are:

One-time, start-up

- Site improvements \$10,000
- Mobile unit \$55,000

Annual operating

- Labor (estimated) \$56,000
- Disposal (estimated) \$75,000

Since the mobile unit will be used in Lake County two weekends per month, and one weekend per month in Porter and LaPorte, the non-assignable operating expenses will be shared as follows: Lake County, 50%; Porter County, 25%; LaPorte County, 25%. Non-assignable costs include such things as liability insurance, mobile unit driver, HHW coordinator, etc. The assignable operating expenses, such as transport and disposal, will be paid by each district based on the amount of material collected from that district.

Program Description

The goals of this HHW program are stated as follows:

- Maximize the benefits derived from **economies of scale** realized by joining three districts into one program. representing over 700,000 people.

- Develop a program which will maximize **public convenience**, and as such, participation and diversion.

- Reduce both **fixed and variable costs** per participant from those associated with single-day events.

- Establish "**swap**" programs to maximize the amount of material collected, but not requiring disposal.

- Assume a **reasonable level of risk** with regard to legal liability during collection, transport, and ultimate disposal of HHW.

The overall objective is to reduce the possible environmental consequences from the improper disposal of HHW. Most residents of Porter and LaPorte counties, and a sizeable number in Lake County, rely on groundwater for drinking water and other uses. By establishing a high profile, convenient HHW collection program, the districts are reducing the future possibility of contaminating the aquifer through landfill disposal of HHW.

Staffing. In each county, a list of laboratory employees, environmental technicians, and others, already trained-and working in the field professionally, will be established and kept current. These persons will staff the mobile unit in their county. They will be paid in accordance with private sector wages. Since HHW collections will occur on weekends, availability of qualified staff is not expected to be a problem.

In addition to the paid part-time employees, volunteers will be used for traffic control, public relations, public education, literature distribution, exit surveys, etc.

Reusable materials. It is expected that a large proportion of the materials brought to HHW collections will be reusable items such as latex paint and used motor oil. Latex paint will be accepted at the sites, emptied according to color, repackaged, and made available to public service agencies that have previously arranged to accept the paint. Waste motor oil will be bulked and sold to the closest outlet to where the mobile unit is located, again by pre-arrangement.

Other items delivered in their original container (for example, pesticides and herbicides), and either unopened or nearly intact, will be made available to participants in the HHW collection in a "swap" program.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Look in the basement if you dare,
For nasty things just waiting there.
Beneath the sinks ,behind the doors
in hiding spots and on garage floors.
Old cans and bottles, tins and vials
Where liquids lurk behind cross bone smiles
And cobwebs cling to rusting jugs
of spirit oils and sprays for bugs.
Mysterious powders and things that foam
All Hazardous Wastes found in the home.
But fear not you who possess such bounty,
Soon will come help from within the County.
In Lake and Porter and here in LaPorte
A mobile unit's coming, we are proud to report
It soon will arrive to save the day
and take those Hazardous Wastes away.
Coming around often in case you miss it
Help from your Solid Waste Management District!

Watch for start-up dates and sites to be
announced or call for more information.

LaPorte County Solid Waste
Management District
2364 N. US 35
LaPorte, In 46350
Tel (219) 326-0014 FAX (219) 326-5310